

Sindh CM chairs meeting to review development schemes



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Qaim Ali Shah chairing a meeting regarding development projects, here on Tuesday.—APP

KARACHI: A high level meeting was held on Tuesday at Chief Minister House under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, which discussed various foreign funded projects for the province.

An official statement said that the meeting was attended among others by Kamal Majeedullah, Special Assistant to Prime Minister, Sindh Minister for Irrigation Jam Saifullah Dharejo, Sindh Agriculture Minister Syed Ali Nawaz Shah, Sindh Finance Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Chief Secretary Sindh Raja Muhammad Abbas, Secretary Irrigation, Khalid Haider Memon, Secretary Agriculture Agha Jan

Akhtar, Secretary Food Naseer Ahmed Jamali, Secretary Finance Naveed Kamran Baloch, Secretary Coal Younis Dagha, Secretary to CM Alamuddin Bullo, Special Secretary to CM Dr. Atta Muhammad Panhwar.

The Chief Minister said that various development projects in collaboration with the federal government and under foreign funding are being implemented in the province.

He added that President Asif Ali Zardari had also directed to initiate public welfare oriented projects so that there could be development and economic activity on one hand and provision of job opportunities to the unemployed youth on the other.

Qaim Ali Shah added that schemes under irrigation, agriculture, coal and food departments will provide facilities to the people.

The meeting was informed that a scheme of link canal from Nara Canal, approved by CDWP has been envisaged with Chinese assistance, for which funding is also available.

Besides, water storage schemes at Nai Baran and Nai Gaaj are to be initiated so that water could be provided for cultivation in time of shortage, he added.

There will be loan of Chinese company worth \$200 million and the company so earns will share and there will be 51 percent share of Chinese company and 49 percent share will be of Government of Sindh.

The meeting was informed that an Agriculture Demonstration Zone is to be established in Sindh, under a grand programme.

The Secretary Agriculture Sindh informed the meeting that China Academy of Agriculture and Mechanised Authority is initiating this project for which there is assurance that land will be made available. The project includes Research Institution and agriculture related industries will be established there.

The location of proposed zone was also discussed in the meeting and the meeting fully supported that project.

The meeting also discussed a new project of storage plant for 5,000 tonnes of vegetables particularly the potatoes for which there will be grant of \$200 million. Such storages will be established at all Taluka headquarters.

The meeting was informed that land/plots have been identified at more than 100 spots with availability of infrastructure.

Regarding Thar Coal project, it was informed that there are eight blocks in Thar Coal area and so far six blocks have been allotted to various companies while two blocks will be allotted to other companies after fulfilment of formalities.

It was informed that transmission line is essential for early development of Thar Coal project.

The Secretary Agriculture informed the meeting that a summary of Pilot Project for tail-enders have been floated, there by two solar pumps on 10-10 acres land and one solar pump on 5-5 acre land of owners will be installed.

The Secretary informed that a scheme of grain-storage has been proposed for farmers and in all a scheme of storage of 500,000 tonnes of food grains (Wheat/ Rice) will be taken in hand.

In first phase provision of 2.5lac tonnes storage will be undertaken, while in other phase the remaining storage of 2.5lac tonnes will be constructed. As such, farmers will get genuine price of cultivation/production.

The meeting in overall endorsed the projects and it was decided that the matters pertaining to Thar Coal project will be discussed in the meeting of Board of Directors of Thar Coal project to be convened on January 21.-APP